Court To Decide Vote Right Of Reservation Utes

Utah's Indians living on reservations couldn't vote in Tuesday's general election but the United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging the Utah law that disfranchises them.

The suit, which claims the Utah law is contrary to the U. S. Constitution and various legislation, was brought by Preston Allen, Altonah stockman and vice president of the Affiliated Ute Citizens of Utah. The case is against the state, the county and County Clerk Porter Merrell, who acted under an attorney general's directive in refusing to permit the Indians to vote.

The Utah law says Indians can vote if they have an established residence outside a reservation.

A law firm handling the case said it would probably be sometime in January before any action would be taken. The court ignored a request to impound Duchesne County votes pending a ruling.